

Heritage

*Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural
Heritage Organisations Inc*

May-June 2016

ISSUE 44

ISSN 2203-4366

Chateau Napier

The period from 1910 into the 1920s was a major period of growth in Leura. The town was promoted as a tourist destination and many hotels, guest houses and weekend cottages were established, especially in relation to the development of the railway. One of these guesthouses was Chateau Napier, a magnificent multi storey complex, at the corner of the Great Western Highway and the eastern end of Leura Mall.



Chateau Napier prior to the 1957 fire

The place was owned by the McSweeney family, being opened in 1910. It was extended in 1914 to increase accommodation capacity to 150 people.

Justin McSweeney was a Sydney contractor, railway engineer and developer. He erected Leura House, in 1904 and Chateau Napier in 1910. McSweeney was a prominent figure in the development of significant properties in Leura. He and his wife Emily lived at Rakaia in Railway Parade, Leura, which appears to have been erected about 1904. When McSweeney died, his wife continued to occupy that house until after WWII. Single storey additions were added to Rakaia after her husband's death.

The official opening of Chateau Napier, originally known as "The Napier, Palatial Mountain Resort", was undertaken by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, on 16 December 1910. It was described as one of the largest and best appointed guest houses in the Blue Mountains, and although McSweeney still owned the place, a relative, Mrs McManus, was the proprietor. She operated the guesthouse until 1935, during which time she remarried and became Mrs O'Brien.

In 1912 the building was described as a two and three storey timber building with two chimneys, and a two storey timber framed verandah along the front façade. Wings extended at the rear, and other features included the large masonry retaining wall along the Highway frontage, the fenced tennis court, a promenade roof, and the entry steps from the Highway. In 1914 another building was added, a two storey brick and rendered structure, along with the rough cast rendered garden entry archway, with curved walls and balustrade, and its associated access path.

In 1915 the more grand name of Chateau Napier was adopted. McSweeney died in 1920 and the property was retained by his widow Emily. After 1935, the manageress, Mrs O'Brien, passed management across to W Brewster, but in the early 40s refugee students from the Sydney Grammar School for Girls were billeted there. After WWII the guesthouse resumed operation, first under a Miss Elliott, and then under Weisman and Born.

A well as being a guesthouse, the centre had a hall which was utilized by the community for functions, meetings and "musicale" occasions.

The gardens complemented the grand guesthouse on its elevated site above Leura and included cypress, cedar and radiata pine.

Just as the Hydro Majestic had its produce farm, the Napier was supplied with dairy, poultry and produce from surrounding properties such as The Braes, in which McSweeneys had an ownership interest, and the adjoining Knight farm, a market garden.



After the fire

However, of all the significant buildings lost to bushfires in the Blue Mountains, the outstanding one must be Chateau Napier. The rough cast rendered archway and associated pathway, the walled tennis court and the large retaining wall fronting the Highway are the most significant remaining features of what was once an impressive complex.

In December 1957 the place was destroyed by fire, with only brick foundations, walls piers, concrete footings remaining. The former tennis court is still obvious, as well as retaining walls, garden walls, paths, steps, and remnant gardens. A number of the original trees are still visible including cypress, pine and cedar. Some of the walling is unstable and steps down to the highway have been blocked off. Graffiti is rife, and rubbish blown in and strewn around, as the site is not secured by fencing.

The bushfire followed the driest season on record for the area, lives were lost, and over 600 left homeless throughout Leura and Wentworth Falls due to the out of control fires. Buildings were exploding like bombs as the fires hit them. Many eyewitness accounts told of the event, and later aerial photographs were able to document the extent of the disaster.

The Chateau ruin is listed in Schedule 5 of Council's LEP 2015, as a locally significant site, although due to demolition of the fire remains, theft and time, the remaining features of the site apparently hold little archaeological research potential. A draft development control plan for the site was never gazetted, although the Heritage Act provisions apply to any relics on the site.



Arched gateway



Retaining wall along Highway



Retaining wall and tennis court



Old steps down to Highway

Council's recently gazetted LEP 2015 has relaxed building height limits and floor space ratios which will possibly assist in the redevelopment of the site in the future. *Patsy Moppett*

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www.thebraesgarden.com

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Rakaia, Inventory Sheet, NSW Department of Environment & Heritage 2008

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Food for thought Editor's note
A year in reflection

In addition to my role as Editor of the *Heritage* Newsletter, I have also been the President of BMACHO. My position has recently been reaffirmed at the BMACHO Annual General Meeting in March, for which I thank those who nominated me, and for the support provided to me during the previous 12 months. My report to the AGM is presented below as a summary of our 2015-2016 year.

How quickly the past year has gone, in my first year as President of this most highly regarded organization! We have picked up the pieces from where the previous President, John Leary, left off, and moved forward with confidence and certainty, in providing to the community what we hope is a valuable service in the promotion of member organisations and their activities and interests. We have also sought to address other matters in a way that has enabled the community to make educated decisions about topical issues.

Meetings

We have taken our meetings to a number of members' premises each month and would like to thank them for their hospitality and sharing of their own local histories. This includes Everglades, Mount Wilson, Windsor, Valley Heights, Bygone Beautys, Hartley, Mount Tomah, Arms of Australia at Emu Plains and Solitary at Leura. Thank you to Committee members Suzanne Smith, Jan Koperberg and Louise Viney for facilitating these events. We hope to touch base with other members in the coming months.



Mount Wilson



Everglades

Membership

This year we welcomed Phil Hammon, of Scenic World origins, into our ranks from within the committee. Phil has ably stepped directly into the role of Treasurer, and has kept tabs on us all year.

We had welcomed Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum into our membership early in the year, together with their representative Louise Vining coming onto our Committee, only to have to farewell Louise later in the year in her move to Tasmania. We thanked Louise for her input into the marketing of BMACHO and the Heritage Trail, and wished her well. We now have the pleasure of welcoming Laura Stinson into our group, and now onto the Committee.

We also welcome Leurella Toy and Railway Museum as a member.

Fiona Burnn of the RAHS and Wayne Hanley from Blue Mountains Historical Society, have become individual members, and BMACHO has had several expressions of interest from heritage groups and individuals with regard to joining our membership, and we hope to be able to welcome them in the near future.

Finances

It was flagged at the AGM in 2015 that administrative expenses were low and that we needed to seek additional funding. To date we have managed to keep our heads above board, thanks to the scrutiny's of Phil and Jan. However, we are always on the lookout for new funding and grant opportunities. In particular, with the next BMACHO conference due this year, to be held at Mount Victoria, an opportunity is there to boost the coffers.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail

At last! The launch of the Trail in September 2015 was the culmination of mountains of work by members of the Committee, and a desire to see the project come to fruition, as initiated by Committee member Richard Woolley the previous year, prior to his passing.

Following many subcommittee meetings, emails, phone calls and planning conversations, a workshop was held in August where member groups were invited to have their final input into the final preparations for the first Open Day, which was held the first weekend in October. The brochures came together and were distributed, and the word was spread on Facebook, Twitter, and the special purpose Trail web site.

A second Open Day was held on the first weekend in January 2016, and a third in April. Although progress is slow, and visitor numbers were down on both occasions, members and the Committee are confident that word is spreading and that the teething problems such as clashing with other events and the seasons, will sort themselves out in time!

Blue Mountains History Journal

Once again, ably carried by Dr Peter Rickwood, the 2015 Journal has hit the shelves. The production of the Journal by Peter and his associates is a mammoth task, and its issue can be delayed by many matters beyond their control. However, the articles once again are interesting and thought provoking and well worth their noble efforts!

Heritage Newsletter

The *Heritage* Newsletter has become more popular, with input from both the community and the Editor, which we continue to welcome. We have covered historical places and people, events and topical issues. We have taken a step further and issued a Special Edition in December, which explained the machinations of BMACHO, and another in March on two matters of current community interest. These Special Editions will be issued from time to time on an ad hoc basis.



Cox's Road, Woodford



Springwood Main Street plaza

Specific issues we have covered include the Springwood Master Plan, Cox's Road precinct at Woodford, BMCC LEP 2013, Lawson stationmaster's cottage, Princes Rock, Mount Victoria safety upgrades, the Woodford footbridge, and the Oriental Hotel at Springwood. We have also been asked on a number of occasions to share our articles with other groups for their publications, requests we have happily acceded to.

Constitution

The BMACHO Constitution has had a broom put through it and the Committee has referenced relevant legislation and its own operations to produce a revised and updated

version, considered for endorsement at the AGM. Many thanks to the Secretary, Jan Koperberg, for the hours she has spent producing version after version for our perusal!

Thank you

My thanks go out to the Committee who has supported me in my role as President, and I am proud to have led such a talented and friendly group for the past year.

Thank you to the Vice-President Ian Jack, who has assisted me where he has been needed, in checking my writings and providing advice during meetings.

Thank you to Jan Koperberg for her non-stop work ethic, in spite of a hip operation, in getting through the correspondence she handles (incoming and outgoing) as well as taking minutes and preparing agendas, website operations and grant fund chasing, constitution writing, and many more incidental things which we are probably not even aware of. Every organization needs a "Jan". and we are so lucky to have scored this one!

Thanks to Phil Hammon for stepping up, not just onto the Committee, but for taking on the Treasury role. Your input and experience has been invaluable, as well as your Blue Mountains knowledge and background.

Thanks to the Heritage Trail publicity and website people, Committee members Scott Pollock, Wendy Hawkes, Jan Koperberg, Louise Viney and now Laura Stinson. Without your IT experience and knowledge, we would be lost! As IT is so much a part of today's world, we cannot avoid it, and it is certainly paying off.

Thanks you to Committee member Dick Morony for trying to keep our membership up to scratch, and for the monthly calendar. The calendar is an essential part of the BMACHO aim, to work for our members, and to distribute information about their events.

To Committee members Roy Bennett and Suzanne Smith, thank you for your regular attendance at meetings and the invaluable input you have into discussions on the various topics which we cover. Also to Suzanne for arranging our meeting venues, and for Roy's input into the Mount Victoria issues and events. It is not just the practical skills we need but the minds as well! Many hands/minds make light work.

And thank you also to all BMACHO members for their support, enabling us to carry out our aims and objectives.

The new Committee has been returned as per last year, with the addition of Laura Stinson in place of Louise Viney:

- President: Patsy Moppett (Individual Member BMACHO)
- Vice-President: Ian Jack (Individual Member BMACHO)
- Treasurer: Philip Hammon (Director, Scenic World)
- Secretary: Jan Koperberg (Blue Mountains Family History Society)

Committee:

- Roy Bennett
- Wendy Hawkes
- Dick Morony
- Scott Pollock
- Suzanne Smith
- Laura Stinson

We are looking forward to the next BMACHO year, in whatever roles we fill, in harmony and companionship, working to our common goal of heritage education, appreciation and promotion.

Ephemeral distance measurements on the Blue Mountains

Road Distances

Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth noted mileages along their route which are inferred to be measured from the Emu Island in the Nepean River, a feature that no longer exists¹. When Evans² surveyed a route for a road he was quite specific about the zero point "From Emu Island," and Cox³ when making the road wrote on 27th July 1814:

“measured the ground from the ford in the river to the creek leading from Emu Plains to the mountain, three miles. marked the trees at the end of each mile at the left side of the road”⁴.

The account by Major General Lachlan Macquarie (Governor of New South Wales, 1810-1821) of the journey his party made when they followed the road that Cox had built also contains a specific starting point viz:

“The commencement of the ascent from Emu Plains to the first Dépôt, and thence to resting place, now called “Spring Wood,” distant 12 miles from Emu Ford, ...”⁵ (no doubt the western bank of the Nepean River).

Subsequently, Governor Macquarie stipulated that distances be measured from a fixed mark (the zero point) which was to be a sandstone obelisk in Sydney (at what became known as Macquarie Place) for which a contract was entered on 19 September 1816⁶; it was designed by Francis Greenway and built in 1818⁷.

It did not take long for milestones to be erected along the major routes out of Sydney⁸. They were mostly trimmed sandstone blocks and the distance to Sydney was engraved by masons using Roman numerals⁹. But the distances that they indicated were only valid until the road was either deviated or realigned somewhere along the route back to Macquarie Place.

It would appear that the first set of distance markers in the Blue Mountains were wooden and they were replaced by “conspicuous mile-stones” in about 1904¹⁰.

In the 1930s concrete replaced stone¹¹, some, and maybe all, being of steel-reinforced concrete¹². Many were installed long before others reputedly were made at the DMR Depot at Windsor in the early 1950s (pers. comm. Doug Knowles 29.1.16). These concrete milemarkers were made to Imperial measurements and to published specifications¹³ - 4' 9" (144.8 cm) long and 13" (33 cm) across the back; the sides with mileages were to be 9 ins (22.9 cm) wide. The amount exposed to view was to have been 2' 9" (83.8 cm) and with 2' 0" (61 cm) being specified as the length to be buried they were quite stable. But in practice the length buried is likely to have depended on the difficulty of digging the hole in which to place them; thus from the soil staining in Figure 1 it is apparent that this milestone was buried to a lesser depth (c.16 ins (40.6 cm)) so stability came from the great weight (by calculation c.90 kg or c. 1.8 cwt) which was also a deterrent to thieves. [Sandstone milestones were larger, reputedly 1 x 0.5 x 0.5 m and for a density of 2.6g/cm³ weighed c.0.65 tonnes, and not the 1.5 tonnes as reported¹⁴, yet from a site near Prospect even one of these was stolen!]

Milestones were always situated on the left as you departed Sydney¹⁵ and on the side facing you they showed the mileage to the next town of significance,

“both figures and letters will be incised (into the concrete) and painted in black,”¹⁶.

Where necessary, the distance to Sydney was painted on the top bevel surface thereby being easy to correct when roads were changed¹⁷.

In 1933 the ‘mile-stones’ were in place along the Main Western Road¹⁸, and many lasted until metrication occurred¹⁹. Parliament passed the Australian Metric Conversion Act in 1970²⁰ but conversion of road measurements was delayed until mid 1974. By then the local road realignments had made some of the distances shown on milestones incorrect anyway. Today the milestones remaining on the Blue Mountains seemingly are few:

- one is in the Mount Victoria & District Historical Society Museum (Figure 1; L14 (*Lithgow*), K10 (*Katoomba*)) - it is in excellent condition.
- a second is adjacent to the letterbox of 16 Coachhouse Lane, Medlow Bath²¹; (Figure 2; L18, K6). But that is not its original position for it is now on the right of the old road, and the back is set more-or-less at right angles to that road. However, it was recovered by the house owner from nearby and the distances shown (*Lithgow 18 miles* - although the 1 is

not clear nowadays; Katoomba 6 *miles*) are said to be right for Medlow Bath (pers. comm. Robyne Ridge 1 February 2016). Sadly, it is in poor condition and is now partly obscured by branches of a tree.



Photo: PCR 2016

Figure 1. Milestone at Mt. Victoria Museum



Photo: Robyne Ridge

Figure 2. Milestone at Medlow Bath

- a third is in a private garden at 49 Railway Parade, Hazelbrook²² (Figure 3; L10, W42 (*Windsor*), S78 (*Sydney*)) and can be seen clearly from the street and in Google Street View. It is in good condition except for the painted lettering on the top surface.



Photo: PCR 2016

Figure 3. Milestone at Hazelbrook



Photo: Doug Knowles 2016

Figure 4. Milestone at Sun Valley

- a fourth is in a garden at Sun Valley (Figure 4; K20, PN12 (Penrith): S (Sydney) 44 (replacement lettering).
- the fifth is quite different from, and much older than, the previous four, being a carving in the sandstone 500 m east of Lennox Bridge²³ showing "Penrith IV" and "Sydney XXXVII"²⁴.

A milestone formerly in the garden of 10 Leichhardt Street, Blackheath can still (February 2016) be seen in Google Street View even though it was removed late in 2015 when the land was cleared for a new building.

But maps showing the positions of these milestones in the Blue Mountains were seemingly lacking until Doug Knowles²⁵ recently compiled one for the Great Western Highway between Valley Heights and Lapstone. Even Gregson's²⁶ 1894 detailed 4 chains to an inch map of the Main Western Road (Sheet 4) does not have any indication of mileage markers.

Sometimes a road map will have a mileage indicated beside a drawn road but that number is actually the distance along the adjacent railway line (e.g. Figure 5).

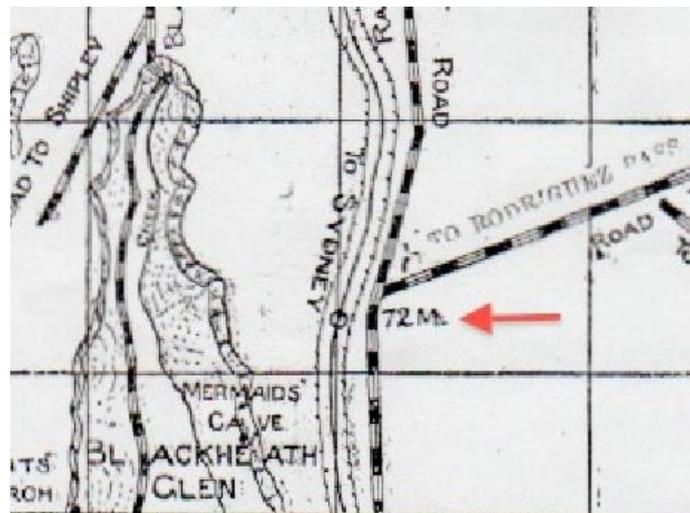


Figure 5. "Mountaineer" Guide Map²⁷.

There are many variants of that "Mountaineer" Tourist Map - a very amateurish bit of drafting - which seems to indicate that the 72 mile spot was just a short distance S of Grand Canyon Road and the marker on the rail line is at the southern end of a bend that is concave west.

Rail Distances

On his 1877 map, Du Faur²⁸ marked the 72 mile distance in a small font just south of Evans Lookout Road, Blackheath (Figure 6) and it is similarly sited on the Surveyor Generals Department²⁹ plan of the railway line (Figure 7). Those are positions towards the northern end of, a bend that is concave west, respectively, whereas it was placed at the southern end of that bend on the Mountaineer maps (Figure 5) - clearly some inaccuracies in plotting.

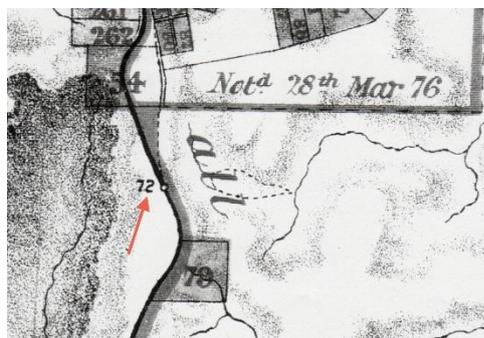


Figure 6. Du Faur (1877)²⁸

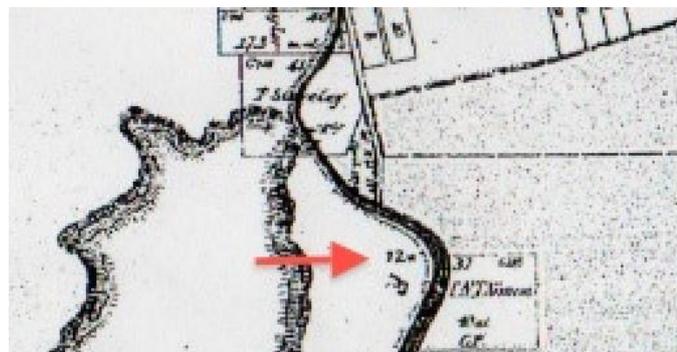


Figure 7. Surveyor Generals Department (1879)²⁹

But distances along the railway line have changed over the years:

- by small amounts due to realignments on bends,
- by a moderate amount when the Lapstone Zig-Zags were bypassed by the Lapstone tunnel in 1892³⁰,
- by another moderate amount in 1913 when the Glenbrook Gorge route was opened³¹,



Figure 11. Singleton (1957)³⁶



Photo: PCR 28 January 2016
Figure 12. Signage at Medlow Bath Station

Nowadays railway distances are measured from a point on Platform 1 at Central Station³⁷ and in 2016 the distance shown on an enamel notice at Medlow Bath Railway station (Figure 12) is 115.715 km (71.902 miles) so the maps in Figures 9 & 11 are essentially correct for the present day rail distance.

Peter C Rickwood

Acknowledgements

This research arose because of an enquiry from John Low about a location between Medlow Bath and Blackheath that was specified as being between particular milestones. I am grateful to Doug Knowles for a description of the placement of these markers and for providing photographs of one in a private garden at Sun Valley. Keith Painter kindly allowed me to photograph the milestone in the Mount Victoria & District Historical Society Museum and Robyne Ridge sent me better photographs of the Medlow Bath milestone than I had taken and she also obtained the account of salvaging it. Brian Fox is thanked for searching his map collection for one with milestones marked, albeit unsuccessfully.

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Glenbrook Park

Glenbrook is located in the lower Blue Mountains, some 70km west of Sydney. The place takes its name from Glenbrook Creek, located on the southern side of the village. Within Glenbrook and surrounds can be seen many historical features and places including historic homes, the Lennox Bridge, the old Zig Zag railway, the Glenbrook tunnel, churches and public buildings.

Glenbrook was originally known as "Watertank", known for the water tank located there which fed the zig zag railway line, filled from Glenbrook Lagoon. When a loop siding was constructed in 1870 it became "Wascoe's Siding", connected with the railway stopping point of Wascoe (now Blaxland).

In 1878 Sir Alfred Stephen decided to give the place a "proper" name, and called it Brookdale, but one year later the station became Glenbrook, the village was gazetted in 1884 and took the name in 1885.



Gateway Signage



Bills Horse Trough, Cinema in background

One particular feature of the village which dates from 1884 is Glenbrook Park, just across Ross Street from the shopping centre. The Park and its stone gates are heritage listed within Schedule 5 of the Blue Mountains LEP 2015. Glenbrook Park in its entirety, is listed on the NSW State Heritage Inventory.



Entrance gates

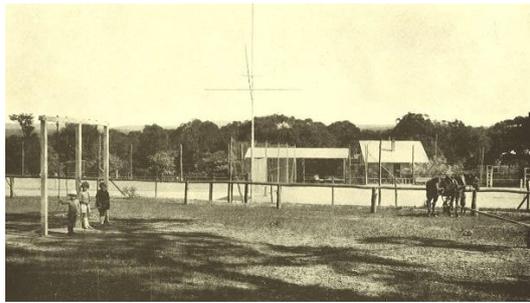


Place name steps

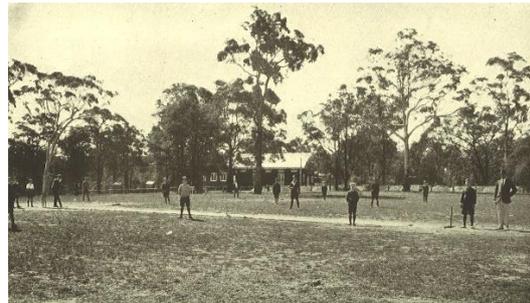
The Park is bounded by Ross, Park and Green Streets, with Highway access via Haymet Street. The whole of the land as far west as Raymond Street was originally reserved for public recreation in 1897, including the station-master's house and garden. The first public school was built in the north east corner in 1892, and was dismantled and rebuilt in 1903, being supplemented in 1911 by the surviving brick building, in the south west corner. Extensions were carried out in 1936-37, and wooden classrooms relocated to the site in the 1950s. The new primary school was built in 1961, with the old buildings retaining the infants school.

The original School of Arts had been built close by to the west, in the north east corner in 1909. When this School of Arts was burnt down in 1927, the north east corner reverted to parkland.

The Park contains many significant features, including the Glenbrook Visitor Information Centre along the Great Western Highway frontage. Adjacent to the centre is a set of sandstone steps on which are carved the names of the villages of the Blue Mountains as far as Katoomba. The site also contains tennis courts and an associated (1980s) pavilion, the original brick hipped roof pavilion, a football/cricket field, an early childhood health centre (1960), and memorial plaque to the Glenbrook train disaster.



Tennis courts 1983

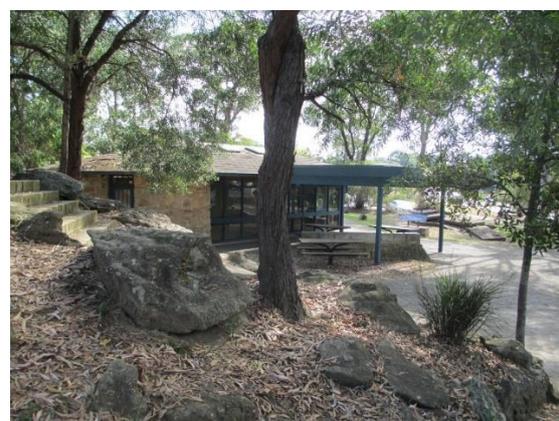


Cricket, old School of Arts in background

The original Cox's Road passes through the Park, a George Evans monument is located nearby, and an original Bills horse trough is located near the cinema. The trough was donated by George and Annis Bills, erected between 1930 and 1940, "*in memory of those horses which did not return from the First World War, 1914-1918*". It is not in its original location.



Parklands



Visitor Centre

The park contains public amenities and picnic shelters, a children's playground and parking area. The eastern side of the site is the location of the former public school and the original school of arts, which is now an attractive native vegetation area.

The site contains a sandstone sculpture by the Graystone Carvers. The pair of sandstone pillars on the northern boundary fronting the highway are an early set of gates carved by John Colquhoun Dunn, a stonemason and resident of Glenbrook, erected by him in 1935 as the main entrance to the park. The gates were moved slightly to the south to accommodate widening of the Highway and the construction of the slip road.

The Glenbrook Cinema is also located in the north western corner of the site, which is the second school of arts building. The building's use as a cinema commenced in the 1920s when a travelling showman set up a cinema and came back on a regular basis. The theatre was rebuilt in 1978 and renovations carried out in later years. Plaques along the north wall record that the original School of Arts foundation stone was laid by Mrs. Colin Smith in 1909. Another plaque states that the stone was re-laid by Mrs. WH Williams in 1927.



George Evans Monument



Second School of Arts



Rail disaster plaque

The playing field was used for football until the game was relocated across the Highway to Glenbrook Oval, and the field used to have a cinder running track at the time of the coronation of Elizabeth II.

The Park is, and always has been, used for large community events.

Plan of Management & Master Plan

A Heritage Assessment was carried out in 2000 by Professor Ian Jack for the University of Sydney, and the site is due for reassessment.

Blue Mountains City Council has recently carried out community consultation with regard to formulation of a Plan of Management and a Master Plan for Glenbrook Park, to guide the future use, improvement and management of this significant place.

Council's Principal Landscape Architect, Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow, advises that following the first round of consultation to identify issues and values, the draft Plan of Management and Master Plan are now being developed. The draft documents are currently scheduled to go to the Council Meeting of 24 May, for the Councilors to endorse them for exhibition, although this scheduling has yet to be confirmed.

If and when the Council approves the exhibition material, it is expected that the draft documents would be made available for public comment in the weeks following the Council Meeting. The exhibition time would be six (6) weeks and include information sessions at the Park.

BMACHO will provide updates on this process as they come to hand. *Patsy Moppett*

References:

Glenbrook Park Inventory Sheet, Office of Environment & Heritage 2008

Horse Trough Inventory Sheet, Office of Environment & Heritage 2008

Glenbrook Park Inventory Sheet, Office of Environment & Heritage 2008

Glenbrook Primary School Inventory Sheet, Office of Environment & Heritage 2008

Mount Sion, CR Staples & Co Ltd 1983

Email from Lisa McQueen, BMCC 7 March 2016

Email from Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow, BMCC 5 April 2016

Wikipedia

www.bluemts.com.au

The Technical Side

Mayhem in the museum

In our museums we are all aware of the damage that pests can do, damaging buildings and collections. In the past museums undertook extensive fumigation regimes, which were both costly and potentially damaging to the collection (spray and pray). Many objects are exposed to the internal environment and offer an attractive source of food for pests. Externally, methods of building construction, plants close to buildings, fence posts, open windows and doors can encourage pests.



Carmanhurst Museum, Carcoar



Golden Memories Museum, Millthorpe

Nowadays there remain a series of steps to be taken towards management and monitoring of buildings and collections utilizing a more modern approach, in order to prevent structural damage and loss of significant museum artefacts.

Materials at risk

Organic materials are most at risk from pest infestation – paper, textiles, and objects made of materials such as wood, plant material and fur, cellulose materials, and protein-based materials. Some pests eat anything! Items can also be generally damaged by general dirt and staining resulting from pest activity.

Signs, times and places of activity

- Holes, surface grazing or bite marks, and/or small piles of fresh dust.
- Droppings or eggs.
- Webbing, cases and cocoons from larval stages.
- Live or dead insects, and cast skins.
- Some pests can be heard chewing, or leave distinctive odours.

Spring is the best time to be watchful in the warmer weather, although regular inspections are recommended, such as once per season. Critically, it is important to inspect collections coming into the building before they are placed in storage ie. loaned collections, acquisitions or collections from other institutions.

Places to check include warm areas, dark or undisturbed areas, damp or wet areas, messy spaces, plants and animals, and new collections.

Actions to take

Live insects can be captured, contained and labeled for identification. Identifying the insect will assist with appropriate treatment and control methods.

Quarantine the affected objects by sealing into plastic bags (if small items) or removing the item from the collection space.

Check nearby collections to ensure there is no further infestation. Monitor this area regularly.

Clean the area of dead insects and debris.

Keep a record of the infestation and contact conservators who may be required.

Type of major pests

These include carpet beetle, clothes moth, silverfish, book lice, wood-boring beetles, termites, spider beetles, biscuit beetles, hide and leather beetles. Other pests include millipedes and centipedes, wasps and spiders, ants and cockroaches, birds and rodents, bats, crickets and large moths.

In particular, the *borer* can be the bane of a museum's existence. The wood borers may include the drugstore beetle or powderpost beetle, the Ambrosia or pinhole borer beetle, the dampwood borer, longicorn beetle, particoloured Auger beetle, with the worst ones being woodboring weevil and the furniture beetle. Most lesser borers cause damage usually limited to the first five years after the timber was milled, and repairs are cheaper to carry out.

However, it may be much more expensive to repair the damage of the last two species, which can attack hardwood or softwood of any age. They chew through wood, paper, and

books and leave networks of tunnels with perfectly round exit holes. The ubiquitous little pile of dust is often the only way to detect an active infestation. They may also affect building materials, display cases, storage cabinets and other furniture.



Borer damage in wood

Integrated pest management (IPM)

This is defined as a coordinated approach to pest management that does not rely on chemicals and so moves away from the “spray and pray” approach. It focusses on making the museum spaces and the building unattractive to insects and other pests through physical exclusion, good housekeeping and early detection. It also relies on knowledge of the pest’s life cycle and habits, and good management and monitoring of the museum environment, inside and out.

The basic components are:

1. *Physical control* – basic hands-on activity.
 - Regular cleaning and housekeeping schedule.
 - Regular building maintenance.
 - Sound storage containers.
 - A safe quarantine area.
 - A regular program of trapping insects.
2. *Cultural control* – changing the mindset, establishing good habits:
 - Regular programmed inspections.
 - Written records of all IPM activities.
 - Awareness.
 - Rigorous programmed housekeeping.
 - Staff training



Borer damage in wood

A range of equipment may be required, some of it quite simple and easily obtained, which should be maintained on site, such as sticky traps, torch, logbook, insect identification kit/manual, small plastic containers, building map, clear polyethylene plastic bags. Wooden items in particular need regular maintenance, and should be inspected every six months. Look in subfloor spaces for signs of rot and termites in the flooring and framing. In roof spaces, look for evidence of leaks that may promote fungal growth. Any sign of breakage or distortion of roof structures should be investigated by a structural engineer.

Check external paint finishes for splitting or cracking that may indicate water penetration to the wood beneath.

Basic infestation treatment

Often simply cleaning the object or item is enough, such as for flat items such as documents, framed prints and photographs. However, some objects are difficult to clean such as clothing, or books. Regardless of the treatment method chosen it is still imperative to remove as much insect matter as possible.

Modified temperature treatment works to limit with oxygen and a comfortable temperature for pests to survive. 15-25 degrees C is when they are most active. A rapid drop or rise in temperature is required to kill all stages of the insect cycle, from eggs to larvae to adults. These methods amount to freezing and heating.

Freezing – not all items can be frozen. Chest freezers are the most suitable receptacle, and objects need to be packed appropriately and labelled. Treatment is most commonly carried out to -20 degrees C for at least 7 days. Removal of the frozen objects must be undertaken with care, and thawed to room temperature before handling.

Objects which may be frozen include books and coated papers, feathers and newspapers, organic fibres such as basketry and tapa cloth, paper files, records and maps, textiles and soft toys.

Avoid freezing animal mounts and study skins, audio and video tape, bone and ivory, computer disks, CDs and CD-ROMs, ceramic, daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and tintypes, ethnographic items with mud, ochres and other friable materials, film-based material, glass, glass plate negatives and lantern slides, leather, metals (including buttons), paintings, parchment and Vellum, photographic prints, negatives and transparencies, plastic, vinyl/shellac/acetate records, wooden objects, especially if waterlogged, and works of art on paper.

The Australian Museum treats all objects as they arrive into the Museum with low oxygen, freezing or nitrogen gas flushing. It does not use any chemical fumigant.

Interestingly, the Historic Houses Trust has had experience in wrapping pianos and other large furniture for freezing, and they admit getting a piano into a plastic bag is challenging! With the use of Cryovac sheets the bags were constructed around the items and the final join done with the item in place.

Heating - items to 52 degrees C for 4 hours is the most effective eradication treatment for insects. The most successful treatment is in the field using simple sunlight heat, where other equipment may not be available. It can be damaging to some items, and care should be taken not to heat items including glass, wax, resins, adhesives and leather.

The treatment is cheap and easy, using black plastic bags, up off the ground.

Chemical control - this is of course the careful application of pesticides as a last resort. Natural pyrethrum and synthetic pyrethroids are usually chosen due to their safety.

The pros and cons of treatment have ever been debated, but the main principles which would guide the appropriate method are guided by:

- Safety – visitors and staff.
- Residual nature of chemicals.
- Level of intervention – impact on the site.
- Effect on building/item fabric.
- Ability to work with other contractors.
- Cost.

Getting help

To discover that there is an insect problem in a collection, and then not know where to turn for help, is not uncommon. However, in this day and age there are many resources and help mechanisms available which are simply based on *planning ahead*.

Some basic steps are needed to begin this process, the first step being to do the research and see who/what is out there:

1. Establish a regional museum network – why try to reinvent the wheel when there are others out there who may have had similar crises such as yours.

2. Contact specific expertise outside the museum – eg. Museums & Galleries NSW.
3. Develop a register of volunteers – undertake some succession planning.
4. Utilise these resources to draw up a disaster preparedness plan.

Planning ahead – the disaster plan is applicable to a range of situations. A disaster may be something large and catastrophic, but it is often the case in museums that it is something relatively small and definitely not catastrophic, but one that can lead to a serious disaster. So a disaster may apply equally apply to — a small leak through the storage area window that has drenched the newspaper collection; a pest invasion; a major flood; a piece of vandalism; an earthquake; theft of your most precious object; a fire; etc. Do not think of a disaster as something that is always large and obvious.

For a document with such a long name, a disaster preparedness plan can really be quite a simple document. The document *Be Prepared, Guidelines for small museums for writing a disaster preparedness plan, Heritage Collections Council 2000* is available on line and is an easy guide to planning for disasters, whether it is insect invasion or a flood.

Standards Program - Museums & Galleries NSW has the Standards Program, an opportunity to seek assistance for surveying collections, management, engaging visitors and caring for the collection. An independent reviewer is sent out to each museum. They act as mentor to the museum management.

Many other resources are available, including risk management, grants, setting up a website, and an advisory service. It provides an opportunity for self- review against the national standard.

M & G NSW also has many publications available on line which can assist museums.

Patsy Moppett

References:

Managing pests in the collection – Integrated Pest Management, Help Sheet, Community Museums Program, History South Australia 2011.

Wood borers you should know, Museums Victoria

How do I prevent insects damaging my artworks? Australian Museum, Colin McGregor 2010

What works for us: issues that affect the Historic Houses Trust of NSW's choice of treatment for pest control, Tamara Lavrencic & Alex Roach, 2003

Wood preservation, Information Sheet 5.1, NSW Heritage Office 1998

Be Prepared, Guidelines for small museums for writing a disaster preparedness plan, Heritage Collections Council 2000

Book Review - Aboriginal Rock Art in the Blue Mountains

Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust, which aims at promoting local research and writing, is proud to bring to the public its latest title **Aboriginal Rock Art in the Blue Mountains**. John Van der Have is an architect who specialises in harmonising design with the landscape. Here he has approached the subject of local rock art, not from an anthropological or archaeological view point, but from an artistic and aesthetic one. Over and over again he stresses the sense of place in which the art is found. These artworks are inextricably and forever connected to their location.

These figures, whether painted on rock shelter walls or engraved on open rock platforms, may be presented to the public in isolation from their setting, perhaps framed on gallery walls or photographed in a book such as this. But the author, with sensitive text and superb landscape views, emphasizes that the locations were already in themselves sacred places which made an impact on the soul of the artist. These settings were grand in scale, vast and spectacular – undoubtedly storied places, which the artist has drawn out with a lightness of touch and agility of hand. The artwork is not itself monumental but suggestive of deeper meaning and motivated by the artist's special feeling for the land. Together, artwork and setting constituted what could be termed landscape architecture, an open-air temple.

Fittingly this book has been dedicated to the Aboriginal People of the Blue Mountains, living descendants of those who had been here for thousands of years. It is a warm endorsement and respectful acknowledgement of the treasures which their ancestors bequeathed to them

and which are now given to all to share. It has been estimated that about 1,000 rock art sites are known in the Blue Mountains and undoubtedly many more to be discovered. It is high time to record all we know as some artwork has almost faded away and all are vulnerable to the ravages of time, and even more so to vandalism.



John Van der Have tells the story of the modern Aboriginal art movement which sprang up in the Central Desert in the 1970's.

"There were artworks that drew upon the richness of Aboriginal culture extending back thousands of years. The artistic outpouring that began at Papunya in the early 1970's captivated the world, and within a few years led to passionate worldwide interest . . . These contemporary Aboriginal artworks struck a deep cord with many people, not only in Australia, but also throughout the world."

Art critic for *Time* magazine, Robert Hughes, is quoted as calling it *"the last great art movement of the 20th Century."* John points out the common tradition behind the contemporary art world and the simple figures displayed in this book are sourced from the same feeling of identity with the land.

Eugene Stockton

Aboriginal Rock Art in the Blue Mountains - RRP\$50 is available from *The Turning Page Bookshop, Springwood; Megalong Books, Leura; Lamdha Books, Wentworth Falls; Gleebooks, Blackheath, Glebe.*

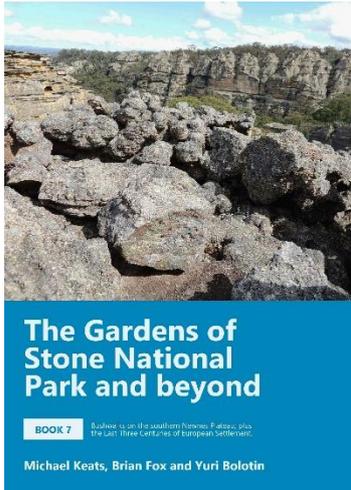
Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust publisher of this book invites you to view their publications at www.bmert.org email enquiries to allan.walsh@exemail.com.au

Book Review – Gardens of Stone National Park and Beyond

Book 7 in the 9 book series, *The Gardens of Stone National Park and Beyond* by Michael Keats, Brian Fox and Yuri Bolotin, is principally about the last three centuries of European occupation of the area. It includes stories of such iconic engineering feats as the Wolgan Valley Railway, The Newnes Industrial Complex as well as follies such as the proposed Wollemi International Airport and a 6000MW power station at Birds Rock.

Previously unpublished historic photos are included together with interviews involving descendants of some of those men and women whose parents and grandparents were directly involved. It is a book of contemporary history, warts and all.

One of the most amazing stories is that of the construction of the dam on the Bungleboori Creek. Although very much of our recent past, the pictures tell stories about changes to Work Place Safety while at the same time revealing just how much of our lauded, second to none, pioneering resilience has been lost.



Perhaps the greatest challenge documented in the book is the story of the telephone services that connected Newnes to the outside world. Michael, Brian and Yuri, along with bushwalking colleagues walked many tens of kilometres following residual evidence of the original poles and wires that have survived the depredations of bushfires, storms and souvenir hunters.

There are also many great walks, principally along the southern escarpment of the Newnes Plateau from the Darling Causeway to Hassans Walls. The case for the entire escarpment to be declared a national park, with its rich natural, Aboriginal and European heritage, should be undertaken as a matter of priority.

Even if you hated history at school, we think you will find these stories and the many hundreds of pictures a compelling read. *Michael Keats, Brian Fox and Yuri Bolotin*

*The book can be purchased from Brian Fox for \$50.00, free delivery Australia wide.
Ph: 0407 067 081, or email brian@bushwxplorers.com.au*

Community events & updates

Walk – Discovering Linden – Secrets will be Revealed!

Blue Mountains Branch of the National Trust announce a fascinating walk in the Linden area on Saturday 28 May 2016. Both visitors and Blue Mountains residents drive up and down the Great Western Highway, regularly by-passing the township of Linden. The Branch is organizing a walk to discover Linden's secrets. There is a cave, a grave, an old road and a cairn. Join them on a 3-4km walk to find out more about them. Morning tea would be provided.



The cairn



The cave



The grave



The old road

Participants will meet at the corner of Glossop Road and Burke Road at 10am. They can also be picked up from the Linden Railway Station, northern side, from the 9.49am train from Sydney and from the 9.56am train from Mount Victoria.

Cost: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, \$5 for children. *Liz van Reyswood*
Enquiries: Rhona Leach, Ph: 02 4757 2424, or email: bmnt1814@gmail.com

Glenbrook Construction Tramway – Walk

The Glenbrook Construction Railway was built c1910 for the duplication of the eastern end of the railway across the Blue Mountains, and opened in 1911. The duplication replaced the single line zig-zag and tunnel and was very important for the expansion to the west. A walk will be run by the Blue Mountains Branch of the National Trust, and will take place on 18 June 2016. It will take you down the tramway to the overlook of Glenbrook Gorge. Morning tea would be provided at the Gorge, and then you would walk back along Emu Road, where there was a navvies' camp.



Tramway cutting

The group will meet at Lapstone Primary School parking lot at 9.30am for a 10am commencement. The cost is \$10, which includes morning tea. *Liz van Reyswood*
Bookings essential: Rhona Leach, Ph: 02 4757 2424, or email bmnt1814@gmail.com

Maitland-Morpeth Tour

The Blue Mountains Branch of the National Trust is holding a small group bus tour to visit Maitland, Morpeth and the surrounding districts on 26 to 28 July 2016.



Walka Water Works



Maitland Gaol Governor's House



Anlaby Inn, Morpeth

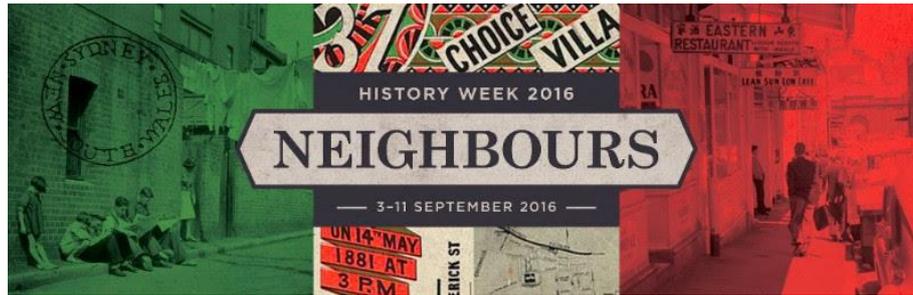
The tour will cover a visit to the 1870s Grossman House, Maitland, where lunch would be provided. This would be followed by a tour of Maitland. The following day the group would visit Sir William Clark's Walka Water Works, followed after lunch by a tour of Maitland Gaol. The third day would commence with a visit to historic Morpeth, a colonial river port, before returning home. Accommodation and dinner would be provided in the city each evening. The cost is \$450.00 per person (+\$40 single supplement), and further information would be provided closer to the day.

Liz van Reyswood

Bookings are essential. Rhona Leach Ph: 4757 2424, or email bmnt1814@gmail.com

History Week 2016, 3-11 September 2016

Now in its 19th year, the History Council of NSW's History Week has become a significant event in the cultural calendar of NSW. This year's theme "Neighbours" includes stories of individuals, families and communities living near one another and links between adjoining suburbs, regions and countries. The concept of neighbours has shaped imaginations and memories, creating identities and has been a source of both conflict and friendship.



As part of History Week, the Annual History Lecture will be held on 7 September delivered by Emeritus Professor Heather Goodall of the University of Technology, regarding Indigenous histories and relationships in Australia, environmental history and intercolonial networks.

Register your event, as a member of the History Council of NSW, or choose to host an event. Events must be relevant to the theme and take place during History Week. Applications close on 31 May 2016.

History Council NSW

Mailing address: PO Box R1737, Royal Exchange NSW 1225.

Email: admin@historycouncilnsw.org.au

www.historycouncilnsw.org.au

Oral History NSW Events

Oral History NSW is hosting a workshop and seminar on Saturday 14 May 2016 at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney – *Capturing Memories: Oral History in the Digital Age*. This is intended to be a practical workshop for all interested in recording the experiences of family, friends, the local community, history of museum items or any other project incorporating memories of the past. The presenters would be Pauline Curby and Andrew Host. Reference notes from each session will be provided. This workshop builds on the OHA Oral History Handbook, available for purchase for \$25.00 (normally \$35.00).

See <http://oralhistorynsw.org.au>



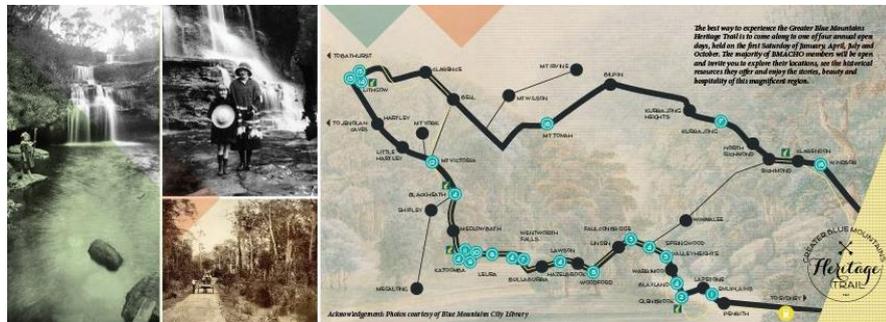
Oral History NSW are also holding a joint seminar with the State Library of NSW on Saturday 25 June 2016 at the State Library of NSW – *Those who've come across the seas: Oral history and migration stories*. The session will explore the use of oral history as a means of recording and revealing Australian stories of migration.

See <http://oralhistorynsw.org.au>

Bookings are essential for these events. Enquiries: Anisa Puri – events@oralhistorynsw.org.au
Ph: 02 8094 1239

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail

The next common Open Day is Saturday 2 July 2016



The Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail (GBMHT) is a project of BMACHO. There are four common Open Days each year, i.e. the first Saturday of January, April, July and October. The participants include historical societies, family history societies, museums, heritage properties, heritage gardens and heritage businesses in the Greater Blue Mountains, Emu Plains, Lithgow and the Hawkesbury areas. There are also a number of historic "places to eat" and "places to stay" listed on the website and in our brochure. We are also adding "Hidden Gems" in the region to our website, along with photos and links to maps. Brochures are available at Visitor Information Centres in the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and the Hawkesbury, and all the museums in the region. Keep an eye on our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#) to see planned events and please subscribe to our GBMHT newsletter, by clicking the link on the bottom of each page of the website. This project was funded by the **Westpac Group**.

Feedback from the Trail operation to date shows a positive outlook for most operators, although we all acknowledge that there is a long way to go. The timing of the open day events will be reflected in visitor numbers, depending upon the season, publicity and other events which may occur on the same day.

We know the events will gain momentum, and BMACHO and the member organisations will continue to promote the Trail, increasing awareness as much as possible.

Congratulations to the winners of the first Heritage Trail Photo Challenge Competition! Here are our winning photos!

1st Place: Irma Tognotti, teapot photo at Bygone Beautys,

2nd Place: Kel Torrance, photo at the Paragon Cafe,

3rd Place: Neale Bayliss, photo on the train ride at Lithgow State Mine Railway Limited



Thank you to all the entrants and your fantastic photos!

Keep an eye out for the next photo competition, and have a go!!! Great prizes to be won!!

BMACHO Committee

BMACHO: Blue Mountains History Conference 2016

REMINDER: The BMACHO conference “*Artefact*”, will be held on 7 May 2016 at the historic Victoria and Albert Guesthouse, Station Street, Mount Victoria.

The conference will focus on collections and associated mysteries, and specific items within local collections. Discussion will include a coal miner’s tools of trade, terminology and customs; the current *Interesting Objects* collection at Hawkesbury Regional Museum; the Gardners Inn at Blackheath, and the carved keystone which Blue Mountains Historical Society has been entrusted to preserve; and the Bleichert rope joiner, and associations with Adolph Bleichert and Oscar Schultz.

Master of Ceremonies will be Lynn Collins, Museums and Galleries Advisor, to Blue Mountains City and Lithgow City Councils.



Conference venue

Conference registration is from 8.45am, and conference commencement is at 9.15am, with the conclusion at 4.30pm. The cost is \$60.00 per person.

Bookings may be made via the Secretary at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com , or Ph: 02 4732 7687

Patsy Moppett

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

Registered office: 1/19 Stypandra Place, Springwood 2777. (02) 4751 5834

Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com

Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au

ABN: 53 994 839 952

The organisation: Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury, Penrith and Mudgee. BMACHO membership includes historical and heritage groups, museums, commercial enterprises with an historical or heritage component in its core business, local government (local studies units, library collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation such as but not necessarily academics. The objectives of the organisation are:

1. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage
2. To encourage and assist cultural heritage
3. To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.

One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various bodies into closer contact to encourage them to work more closely together and to provide a combined voice on matters of importance within the heritage sector.

Affiliations: BMACHO is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society and is affiliated with the Better Planning Network.

Publications: BMACHO's official newsletter *Heritage* is edited by Patsy Moppett. The annual refereed *Blue Mountains History Journal* is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood and occasional papers are published from time to time.

Membership: The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre; Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Norman Lindsay Gallery; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley Valley District Progress Association; Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; Leurella NSW Toy & Railway Museum; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc;; Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies; Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc; Mt Victoria & District Historical Society Inc; Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc (including Turkish Bath Museum); National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Blue Mountains Branch; National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Lithgow Branch; Nepean District Historical Society Inc; Paragon Cafe, Katoomba; Scenic World Blue Mountains Limited; Springwood & District Historical Society Inc; Springwood Historians Inc; Transport Signal Communication Museum Inc; The Darnell Collection P/L; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, Woodford Academy Management Committee, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Fiona Burn, Ray Christison, Wayne Hanley, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Professor Barrie Reynolds, Dr Peter Rickwood and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

Committee: The management committee for 2016-2017 (from April 2016) is: Patsy Moppett (President and *Heritage* Newsletter Editor), Ian Jack (Vice President), Jan Koperberg (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Scott Pollock and Wendy Hawkes (web site), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith and Laura Stinson (Events and Venue Co-ordinators), Roy Bennett. Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Scott Pollock, Laura Stinson, Wendy Hawkes & Jan Koperberg.

Disclaimer: views and opinions expressed in *Heritage* originate from many sources and contributors. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of material. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of BMACHO, its committee or its members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.